

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A biologically pure culture of ~~Lactie~~-lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to the a genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of the an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is capable of growing in presence of up to 0.4% bile salts.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ~~Lactobacillus~~-lactic acid bacterium strain according to claim 1, which is capable of adhering to the ~~an~~ intestinal mucosa of a host organism and ~~essentially colonize it~~colonize the intestinal mucosa.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~Lactobacillus~~-lactic acid bacterium strain according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The ~~Lactobacillus~~-lactic acid bacterium strain according to claim 4, which is Lactobacillus paracasei.

Claim 6 (original): The Lactobacillus paracasei according to claim 5, which is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116 (NCC 2461).

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for preparing an ingestable support material comprising ~~the step of~~ using a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to the ~~a~~ genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of the ~~an~~ intestine with

pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 7, wherein the Lactobacillus-lactic acid bacterium strain is contained in ~~the~~an ingestable support material in an amount from about  $10^5$  cfu / g to about  $10^{12}$  cfu / g support material.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for preparing an ingestable support material comprising ~~the step of~~ using a supernatant of a biologically pure culture of a lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of ~~the~~an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the ingestable support material is a food composition selected from milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formulae.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for ~~the~~ treatment of a disorder associated with diarrhoea comprising ~~the step of~~ administering to a patient having ~~a~~the disorder associated with diarrhoea a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of ~~the~~an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition containing a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the~~a genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of ~~the~~an intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses or a supernatant of a culture thereof.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to claim 11, wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is part of a composition which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding, and liquid tube feeding.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~-lactic acid bacterium strain is capable of adhering to the intestinal mucosa of a host organism and essentially colonize it.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~-lactic acid bacterium strain is ~~capable to grow~~ grows in the presence of up to 0.4 % bile salts.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~-lactic acid bacterium strain is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~-lactic acid bacterium strain is Lactobacillus paracasei.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 wherein the ~~Lactobacillus~~-lactic acid bacterium strain is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116 (NCC 2461).

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 7 wherein the ingestible support material is a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk-based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based product, and infant formulae.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for preventing a disorder associated with diarrhoea in a patient at risk of same comprising ~~the step of administering a~~ biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the a~~ genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A food comprising a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to ~~the a~~ genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses or a supernatant of a culture thereof.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The food according to claim 21 which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, wet oral supplement, and liquid tube feeding.